

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph spanning line 5-9 on page 8 of Applicant's specification with the following:

Referring now to Figure [[4]] 5, some basic components of a networked node 50 are shown to include a packet processor 56, a parser 52 and a packet buffer 54. Although the components are shown as functional blocks, it should be understood that the functionality described with regard to each of the components may be implemented in either software, hardware, or a combination thereof, and the present invention is not limited to any specific implementation.

Please replace the paragraph spanning lines 14-22 of page 10 with the following:

As mentioned previously, in this example traffic stream B is an assured forwarding PHB stream. Table II illustrates the contents of an anti-replay bitmask for stream B at time T16. Note that only those entries associated with stream B have values in the bitmask field for the associated FIFO. The value of the anti-replay bitmask at time T16 is determined by ORing the previously received sequence numbers within the window, to provide a result of 101011011011 (indicating that sequence number 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12 was received). The received sequence number in T16 is 0000001, and thus there is not a match at the receiver, and packet B will not be discarded. Note that the bitmask at time T16 for stream A differs from that of Stream B, as it considers only sequence numbers associated with traffic stream A.